

Investigations (T.M.)

Investigators Seek Cause Of Explosion

Community Affairs File
FEB 28 1973

Investigation continued Wednesday into the deaths of two workmen who apparently were killed when an industrial tank they were working on top of exploded about 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Pronounced dead on arrival at St. Anthony Hospital were Charles E. Owen, 55, RR 52, Terre Haute and Charles T. Mancourt, 25, Pimento.

The explosion occurred at the Western Tar Products plant, 2525 Prairieton Ave., where the two men had been preparing the tank for insulation.

According to reports, the tank contained about 16,000 gallons of a heated tar product. The explosion possibly could have been caused by volatile fumes from the contents of the tank ignited from a torch the workmen were using. City firemen, however, said no definite cause has yet been established.

According to observers, the explosion threw the two several hundred feet from where they had been working. A number of windows were smashed in three buildings on the plant ground. No other injuries were reported.

Both men were employed as steamfitters by the Fabrication Enterprises, 3438 Broadlands Road.

Funeral arrangements for Owen are pending at the Cottrell Funeral Home in Rosedale where his body was taken.

He was a member of the Rosedale Masonic Lodge No. 259 and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 157.

Owen is survived by the wife, Izola Lahue Owen; three sons, Terry Lee and Michael Owen and Kenneth Swaim, all of Terre Haute; four daughters, Mrs. Patricia Neese, Valparaiso, Peggy Joe Pidcock, living in Florida, Norma Conder, Terre Haute, and Marilyn Swalls, Dieterich, Ill.; one sister, Gertrude Clark, Eaton, Ind., and 23 grandchildren.

Surviving Mancourt, a Vietnam veteran, is the widow.

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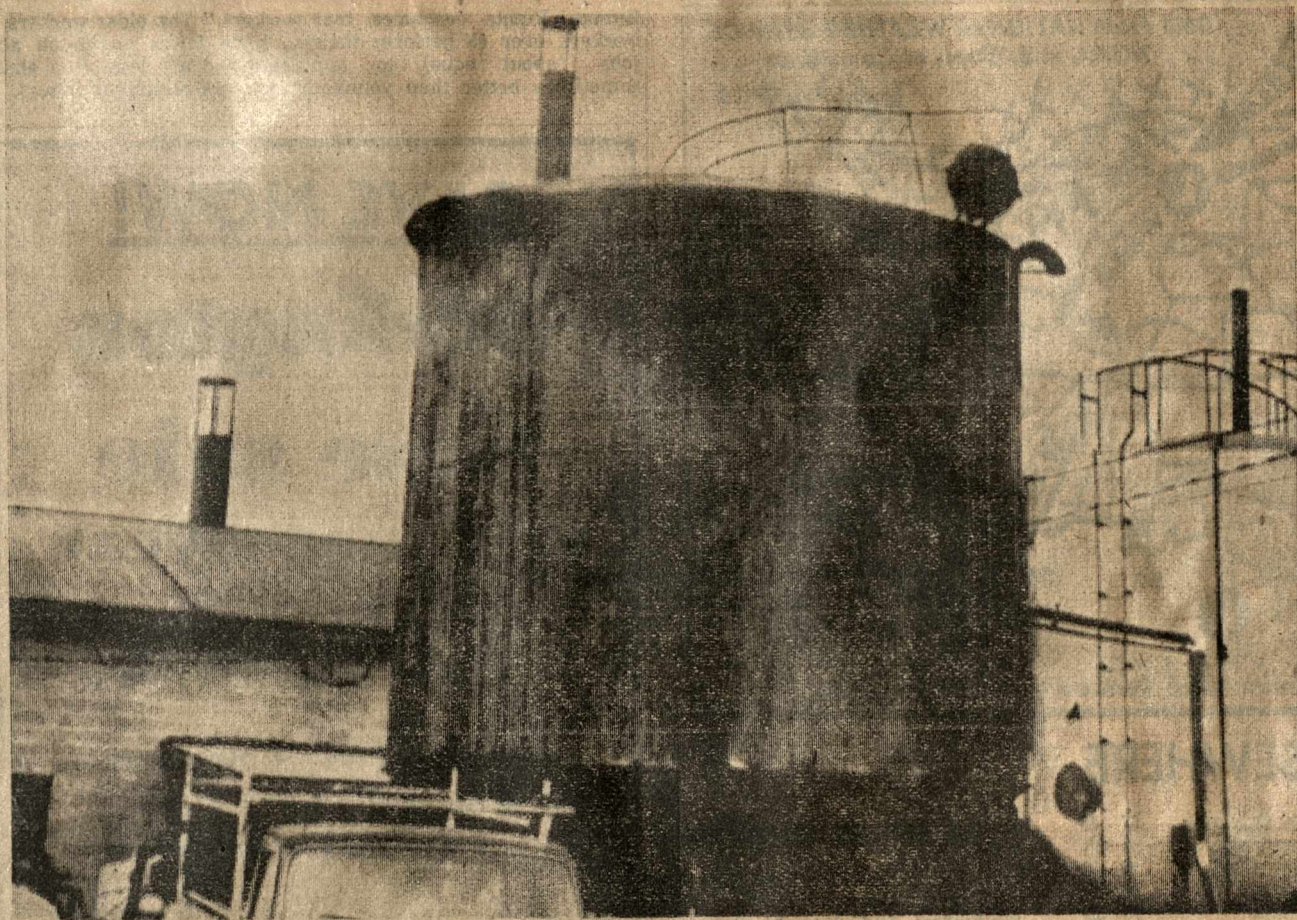
Investigators

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Loretta; one son, Charles, Jr., at home; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Mancourt, RR 1, Pimento; and one brother, Edward, Clinton. Funeral arrangements are pending at the DeBaun Funeral Home.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

DISASTERS
(W.U.)



EXPLOSION SCENE—Two Vigo County men lost their lives Tuesday afternoon following an explosion at the Western Tar Products plant, 2525 Prairieton Ave. The men, officials said were working on top of the large storage tank when the explosion occurred. The blast ripped a large hole in the tank and damaged an adjacent building in addition to breaking out a number of windows at other nearby buildings.

Strausburg Photo.

Explosion - Western Tar
2-1973